

Florida (Mrs. MEEK). Without question, her spirit carries this institution, and she has given hope, not only to her district, but to the people of our entire country. Each of us here in the House knows we are serving with an historic figure, and we thank her family, we thank the people of Florida, of Miami, for sending her here in order that our country be a better place in which to live.

I think every single Member here whose life she has touched is a better person for knowing her. She has strengthened us when we were at our weakest, she has made us laugh when we were taking ourselves too seriously, and even as recently as this afternoon she was fighting for the weakest and the poorest among us in the Committee on Appropriations in a several-year effort that she has fought to get rid of usurious lending and check-cashing facilities across this country that prey on the poorest among us.

I will never meet another person like the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), and I say to the gentlewoman, I hope that you will come back to us as often as you wish, because you have a seat in the office of every single person on both sides of the aisle of this Chamber. You are held in the highest regard, and you truly have fulfilled the oath that you took to represent the interests of our country.

It has been my great privilege to serve with you, and I thank you for your work on behalf of the citizens not just of your district or mine, but our entire country and the world. You are one of a kind. God bless you.

□ 1645

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. TAUZIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise, too, to let the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) know that, from this side of the aisle, the feelings that have been already expressed about her personally are shared broadly across this body.

I say to the gentlewoman from Florida, we have shared a lot of time together, I have shared time on both sides of the aisle, and we have come through a lot together. We came through Hurricane Andrew. When it got through messing with the gentlewoman's folks, it came down to Louisiana and messed with mine, and we share the horrors of those tragic days with our constituents together, and helped rebuild together.

More importantly, I say to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), she has been a dear friend, a dear friend to so many of us. We have come to love and admire her in so many ways.

I have often said that this House is filled with real people who represent

real people. In a real sense, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) has literally represented the best of what the House of Representatives is all about. It is about people coming from the bottoms, the small places of America, and representing them with dignity and honor and respect; and she has done that in a magnificent fashion.

She has honored this body by her presence. She will be remembered a long time by more than those grandchildren who love her so much. She will be remembered with honor and love by all of us in this House for the time we have been privileged to share with her here.

I wish you bon voyage, CARRIE. I hope you have a great time in whatever you do.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am here to speak on behalf of guys with white hair, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), and me. The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) used to play the game with us all the time; and we knew she knew who we were, but she would play like she did not. But her sense of humor and her ability to reach down into people's souls really makes the difference.

Many Members come here and we all think or we all try not to lose touch with where we came from; but there is no question, when the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) speaks on this floor, there is no question that she has not forgotten where she came from or the people around her, who they were, and what they struggle with.

Her voice has been a consistent and solid voice for the people in this society we try to give a hand up to, but the gentlewoman from Florida would never let us get away with just trying. She insisted that we do it. We are going to miss her, and they are going to miss her. All of us are going to miss her coming up the aisle saying, "the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. MORAN." We are going to miss her a lot.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as one reads history, many times it seems as though the figures that one encounters are larger than life. It is uncommon to be absolutely certain that, during one's life, one has met someone who is like the greatest of the characters that one has met in history.

That one person that I know, and am absolutely certain that she has already come to be known not only as one of the greatest orators in the history of Florida, one of the greatest public servants in the history of Florida, but one of the greatest Floridians, is the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

I have had the honor, the profound honor and privilege, to know her and to be her friend since we served together in the Florida legislature; and her wisdom and her fairness and her compassion and her goodness and her strength and toughness on behalf of those in need are legendary, and will be more legendary each day.

I join all Floridians, all who have known her, in thanking her, in wishing her well, in wishing her and her family and her son, who will be here with us soon, Godspeed. Thank you, CARRIE.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know that I will have an opportunity to pay tribute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) at a later time, but I simply wanted to not have this RECORD close, after she has made such an eloquent statement to her colleagues, without commenting on what she means to those of us who have had the privilege of serving with her and on what she means to Florida and to the Nation.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is a renaissance woman. She is one who will come to the floor with passion, but also with knowledge. She is one that is unbeatable in debate because she is not one who memorizes or tries to recapture facts she does not know. She speaks both from the heart, but as well, from an internal, deeply embedded sense of knowledge of humanity and the needs of our people, no matter who they are.

I have heard her quote from those who many of us only read about, and we will miss the eloquence of a stateswoman who can turn heads and minds on issues that they thought they would come to the floor and vote in the opposite way.

It is well known that we expect to be fortunate enough to be able to serve, those of us who may get reelected, with her distinguished son. But what I would say, Mr. Speaker, that I want the RECORD to be able to account for as she gives her remarks this evening, is that she is a great woman, a woman of affection and love, and that we love her; and, as well, she has been someone who has, in the deepest of need, she has gone there and responded to the need, but also she has solved the need. That is for her constituents in Florida, that is for the people of the United States of